

Uvalde tells Biden to 'do something'; he pledges 'we will'

By ZEKE MILLER and ELLIOT SPAGAT

Associated Press

UVALDE, Texas (AP) — President Joe Biden grieved with the shattered community of Uvalde on Sunday, mourning privately for three hours with anguished families of the 19 schoolchildren and two teachers killed by a gunman. Faced with chants of "do something" as he departed a church service, Biden pledged: "We will."

At Robb Elementary School, Biden visited a memorial of 21 white crosses — one for each of those killed — and first lady Jill Biden added a bouquet of white flowers to those already placed in front of the school sign. The couple then viewed individual altars erected in memory of each student, the first lady touching the children's photos as they moved along the row.

Continued on next page



President Joe Biden lays a wreath at The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, 2022, in Arlington, Va.

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President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden arrive at a memorial outside Robb Elementary School to honor the victims killed in a school shooting in Uvalde, Texas Sunday, May 29, 2022.

Associated Press

Continued from Front

After visiting the memorial, Biden attended Mass at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, where several victims' families are members, and one of the families was in attendance.

Speaking directly to the children in the congregation, Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller tried to assuage the fears of the youngsters, some appearing about the same age as the victims.

"You have seen the news, you have witnessed the tears of your parents, friends," he said, encouraging them not to be afraid of life. "You are the best reminders to us that the lives of the little ones are important."

As Biden departed church to meet privately with family members, a crowd of about 100 people began chanting "do something." Biden answered, "We will," as he got into his car. It was his only public comment during roughly seven hours in Uvalde.

Biden later tweeted that he grieves, prays and stands with the people of Uvalde. "And we are committed to

turning this pain into action," he said.

The visit to Uvalde was Biden's second trip in as many weeks to console a community in loss after a mass shooting. He traveled to Buffalo, New York, on May 17 to meet with victims' families and condemn white supremacy after a shooter espousing the racist "replacement theory" killed 10 Black people at a supermarket.

Both shootings and their aftermath put a fresh spotlight on the nation's entrenched divisions and its inability to forge consensus on actions to reduce gun violence.

"Evil came to that elementary school classroom in Texas, to that grocery store in New York, to far too many places where innocents have died," Biden said Saturday in a commencement address at the University of Delaware. "We have to stand stronger. We must stand stronger. We cannot outlaw tragedy, I know, but we can make America safer."

Biden also met with first responders before the trip back to his home in Dela-

ware. It was not clear if the group included officers who were involved in the immediate response to the shooting.

Biden visited amid mounting scrutiny of the police response. Officials revealed Friday that students and teachers repeatedly begged 911 operators for help as a police commander told more than a dozen officers to wait in a hallway. Officials said the commander believed the suspect was barricaded inside an adjoining classroom and that there was no longer an active attack. The revelation caused more grief and raised new questions about whether lives were lost because officers did not act faster to stop the gunman, who was ultimately killed by Border Patrol tactical officers.

The Justice Department announced Sunday that it will review the law enforcement response and make its findings public.

"It's easy to point fingers right now," said Ronnie Garza, a Uvalde County commissioner, on CBS' "Face the Nation," before adding, "Our community needs to

focus on healing right now." Mckinzie Hinojosa, whose cousin Eliahana Torres was killed Tuesday, said she respected Biden's decision to mourn with the people of Uvalde.

"It's more than mourning," she said. "We want change. We want action. It continues to be something that happens over and over and over. A mass shooting happens. It's on the news. People cry. Then it's gone. Nobody cares. And then it happens again. And again."

"If there's anything if I could tell Joe Biden, as it is, just to respect our community while he's here, and I'm sure he will," she added. "But we need change. We need to do something about it."

Authorities have said the shooter legally purchased two guns not long before the school attack: an AR-style rifle on May 17 and a second rifle on May 20. He had just turned 18, permitting him to buy the weapons under federal law.

Hours after the shooting, Biden delivered an impassioned plea for additional gun control legislation, asking: "When in God's name

are we going to stand up to the gun lobby? Why are we willing to live with this carnage? Why do we keep letting this happen?"

Over the years, Biden has been intimately involved in the gun control movement's most notable successes, such as the 1994 assault weapons ban, which expired in 2004, and its most troubling disappointments, including the failure to pass new legislation after the 2012 massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. As president, Biden has tried to address gun violence through executive orders. He faces few new options now, but executive action might be the best the president can do, given Washington's sharp divisions on gun control legislation.

In Congress, a bipartisan group of senators talked over the weekend to see if they could reach even a modest compromise on gun safety legislation after a decade of mostly failed efforts.

Encouraging state "red flag" laws to keep guns away from those with mental health issues, and addressing school security and mental health resources were on the table, said Sen. Chris Murphy, who is leading the effort.

While there is nowhere near enough support from Republicans in Congress for broader gun safety proposals popular with the public, including a new assault weapons ban or universal background checks on gun purchases, Murphy, D-Conn., told ABC's "This Week" that these other ideas are "not insignificant." The group will meet again this coming week under a 10-day deadline to strike a deal. "There are more Republicans interested in talking about finding a path forward this time than I have ever seen since Sandy Hook," said Murphy who represented the Newtown area as a congressman at the time of the Sandy Hook shooting. "And while, in the end, I may end up being heartbroken, I am at the table in a more significant way right now with Republicans and Democrats than ever before." □

Seaside towns offer free beach passes to Native Americans

By PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Seaside communities in New England are providing free beach access to Native Americans as the summer season kicks off this Memorial Day weekend.

Officials in Narragansett, Rhode Island, earlier this month approved free seasonal beach passes for anyone with a valid identification card from the Narragansett Indian tribe.

On Cape Cod in Massachusetts, the towns of Truro and Wellfleet are also extending a similar benefit to any Native American with proof of tribal affiliation when beach permits are required in late June.

The moves come after Eastham, another Cape Cod town, began offering free seasonal stickers to indigenous people in 2020 as part of its efforts to mark the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims aboard The Mayflower.

Brian Weeden, chairman of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe on Cape Cod that traces its ancestry to the Native Americans that encountered the Pilgrims, commended the towns for taking the "symbolic steps" to recognize the importance of the ocean to their tribe's heritage.



Water nearly reaches the dune barrier at Ballston beach, Friday, Nov. 13, 2015, in Truro, Massachusetts.

Associated Press

"In our creation stories, we say the first Wampanoag boy was actually made out of the foam of the sea and therefore we come from the land and the water," he said. "We are sea-faring people and we need the ocean to survive. It's been our sustenance for hundreds and thousands of years."

Jesse Pugh, the town council president in Narragansett, hopes his proposal sparks broader discussions between town officials and

the town's namesake tribe. "We're not acting like we're doing the biggest favor to the tribe," he said. "This is just something that we thought was right and that we can do. Hopefully it adds momentum to some kind of relationship with the tribe." Narragansett's new policy allows valid tribe members, regardless where they reside, to get a free seasonal pass. The passes otherwise cost \$25 and are only available to town residents. The daily rate for non-resident

beachgoers is \$12 and are required for anyone over the age of 12.

Tribe members looking to park at the beach lots would still have to pay the separate parking fees. Pugh stressed no other additional rights or exceptions to beach rules are conferred. Open fires, for example, remain prohibited. The policy is only in place for this season so far. During council meetings, some residents spoke up against granting the free passes to

nonresidents and worried about the new policy's impact on overcrowding at the beaches.

Pugh said Narragansett beaches are funded by revenues generated from beach fees, so they aren't covered by local taxpayers in the traditional sense.

And less than a dozen tribe members have so far claimed the passes, which will be required starting May 28, according to the town's parks and recreation department.

The tribe, which didn't respond to emails seeking comment this week, has roughly 3,000 enrolled members, but a significant number are likely children under the age of 12 who would already be free to enter town beaches, Pugh said.

Weeden, of the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe, hopes Massachusetts and other states can take broader efforts to codify beach access rights for tribes, rather than piecemeal efforts by individual communities.

He says securing beach access is a small way to make sure tribes' "aboriginal rights" to waterways are respected.

"It's definitely appreciated after 400 years of colonization and gentrification," Weeden said. □

U.S., Canadian regulators tie hepatitis cases to strawberries

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

U.S. and Canadian regulators are investigating a hepatitis outbreak that may be linked to fresh organic strawberries.

In a joint weekend statement, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Public Health Agency of Canada said illnesses in Minnesota, California and Canada occurred after people consumed FreshKampo and H-E-B brand strawberries.

The agencies said the strawberries were purchased between March 5 and April 25. They were sold at various U.S. retailers, including Aldi, Kroger, Safeway, Walmart and Trader

Joe's. In Canada, the affected strawberries were sold between March 5-9 at Co-op stores in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

The potentially affected strawberries are past their shelf life, but health officials say consumers who purchased them and froze them to eat later should throw them away.

There have been 17 illnesses and 12 hospitalizations reported in the U.S., the FDA said. Ten cases and four hospitalizations have been reported in Canada.

Mexico-based FreshKampo, which grew the strawberries, said in a statement Sunday that it is working with regulators to determine how the problem oc-

curred. FreshKampo said the label on the containers of potentially affected strawberries would have said "Product of Mexico" or "Distributed by Meridien Foods."

In a statement on its website, Texas grocer H-E-B said it has not received or sold organic strawberries from the supplier in question since April 16. H-E-B said anyone who still has the strawberries should throw them away or return them to the store where they were purchased.

Hepatitis A is a virus that can cause liver disease and, in rare cases, liver failure and death. Illness usually occurs within 15 to 50 days after eating or drink-



Fresh-picked strawberries are shown. U.S. and Canadian regulators are investigating a hepatitis outbreak that may be linked to fresh organic strawberries. Fresh-picked strawberries are shown. U.S. and Canadian regulators are investigating a hepatitis outbreak that may be linked to fresh organic strawberries.

Associated Press

ing contaminated food or water. Symptoms include fatigue, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain and jaundice.

Consumers who ate the

potentially affected berries in the last two weeks and have not been vaccinated against hepatitis A should immediately consult with a physician, the FDA said. □

New Mexico wildfire scar burn has forest officials worried

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — As more than 3,000 firefighters in northern New Mexico continued to battle the nation's largest active wildfire Sunday, federal forest officials worried about future flash floods, landslides and destructive ash from the burn scar.

The 7-week-old fire, the largest in New Mexico history, remained 50% contained after charring 492 square miles (1,274 square kilometers) in rugged terrain east of Santa Fe.

Two planned burns merged to form the massive blaze at the southern tip of the Rocky Mountains in the Sangre de Cristo range.

One of the fires was previously traced to April 6, when a planned burn set by U.S. Forest Service firefighters to clear out small trees and brush was declared out of control.

On Friday, investigators said they tracked the source of the second fire to the remnants of a planned January burn that lay dormant through several snowstorms only to flare up again last month.

Firefighting costs already surpass \$132 million, climbing by \$5 million a day, according to authorities.

New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham already has asked President Joe Biden to direct the Federal Emergency Management Administration to pay for all costs related to a broad



Carson Hot Shots Tyler Freeman works to keep a burning log from rolling down a slope, Monday, May 23, 2022, as he and his co-workers work on hot spots from the Calf Canyon/Hermits Peak Fire in the Carson National Forest west of Chacon, N.M.

Associated Press

range of recovery efforts.

A Forest Service Burned Area Emergency Response team has started publishing data from its post-fire assessments.

Micah Kiesow, team leader and a soil and watershed program manager with the Santa Fe National Forest, said steep mountain slopes had acted like a sponge before the fire.

"Post-fire in some of these areas, especially the high soil burn severity areas and the moderate, we're looking at now a steep slope that's more like a parking lot," Kiesow told the Santa Fe New Mexican.

He said that could signal an "extreme change in watershed response" during monsoon season.

Flooding presents another problem for communities near burn scars with ash flowing into rivers and streams, according to Kiesow.

Many water treatment facilities aren't equipped for the expensive, time-intensive process of filtering ash. Experts say ash and debris can harm water quality with high levels of nitrates and phosphorus.

A hazard assessment from the Forest Service and U.S. Geological Survey shows

that some burned areas on the New Mexico fire could see heavy debris flows if they receive about .25 inches of rain in 15 minutes. Meanwhile, firefighters were hoping to make continued progress on the fire before the possible return of drier and warmer weather with stronger winds through Monday.

"This fire has a lot of potential left in it," said Carl Schwope, incident commander for the southwest fire management team that has been fighting the wildfire for the past 52 days. Initial estimates show the fire has destroyed at least

330 homes, but state officials expect the number of homes and other structures that have burned to rise to more than 1,000 as more assessments are done.

Elsewhere, 150 firefighters continued to battle a wind-driven fire that has burned more than 8 1/2 square miles (22 square kilometers) of grass, brush and salt cedar at the Arizona-California border.

The fire began Thursday on the Colorado River Indian Reservation 14 miles (24 kilometers) southwest of Parker, Arizona.

Wind gusts of up to 30 mph (48 kph) forced the evacuations of 15 homes on both sides of the river Saturday and pushed the 44% containment figure back to 34%. However, fire officials said the evacuees likely would be allowed to return home by Sunday evening.

The cause of the wildfire remained under investigation. In Colorado, air tankers and helicopters were helping fight a new wildfire burning in the southern part of the state Sunday, the U.S. Forest Service said.

The fire, 18 miles (29 kilometers) west of Antonito, was reported Saturday in a small subdivision along the Conejos River and forced the evacuation of under 100 people north of Colorado 17, said Gregg Goodland, a spokesperson for the Forest Service's Rio Grande National Forest. □

Workers vote to become first unionized Starbucks in Alabama



Starbucks employees and supporters react as votes are read during a union-election watch party on Thursday, Dec. 9, 2021, in Buffalo, N.Y.

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) —

Starbucks has until later this week to file any objections with the National Labor Relations Board after workers at a shop in Birmingham became the first of the company's locations in Alabama to vote to organize. Baristas and other employees at a downtown store voted 27-1 to organize in a tally announced Thursday, news outlets reported. Documents show they would be represented by Workers United if the vote stands.

Company officials didn't immediately respond to an

email seeking comment on whether Starbucks would challenge the vote — the latest in a series of wins for labor at Starbucks stores across the nation.

The employees had the backing of Birmingham Mayor Randall Woodfin, who publicly expressed his solidarity with the workers. Employees who supported the union complained about a lack of respect from management.

Alex Buford, a Starbucks employee for three years who transferred to the store six months ago, also cited racial discrimination as a

problem.

"There's a lot of racial issues that we've been dealing with, managers purposely cutting our hours, attacking us for no reason," she told al.com. "A lot of us have complained and the managers, they're just not hearing us out, or they're not really listening to us, or they say they're listening but they're not really listening." A Starbucks in Buffalo, New York, became the first in the United States to unionize late last year. Based in Seattle, the company has more than 34,000 stores worldwide. □

EU leaders, divided over Russia oil embargo, spy a solution

By LORNE COOK and SAMUEL PETREQUIN

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — European Union leaders gathered Monday in a new show of solidarity with Ukraine, but divisions over whether to target Russian oil in a new series of sanctions exposed the limits of how far the bloc can go to help the war-torn country.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the bloc's 27 leaders by video in a 10 minute-message and urged them to remain united and quickly adopt a new package of measures to stop the Kremlin's "war machine," according to a senior EU diplomat.

Zelenskyy has repeatedly demanded that the EU target Russia's lucrative energy sector and deprive Moscow of billions of dollars each day in supply payments. The EU gets about 40% of its natural gas and 25% of its oil from Russia, and Ukraine says those energy imports are funding Russia's war on its neighbor. But Hungary is leading a group of EU countries along with Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Bulgaria that rely heavily on Russian oil and can't afford to take such steps. Hungary gets more than 60% of its oil from Russia and 85% of its natural gas.

According to the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, Zel-



Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte arrives for the extraordinary meeting of EU leaders to discuss Ukraine, energy and food security at the Europa building in Brussels, Monday, May 30, 2022.

Associated Press

enskyy reminded leaders of the atrocities going on in his country, including the death of civilians and children, telling them "it is crucial that sanctions are adopted as soon as possible." But finding an agreement on an EU oil embargo has so far proved to be a tall order.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban was adamant upon his arrival in Brussels that a deal was not in sight, while Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala suggested that delaying oil sanctions on Russia could be a solution. "We're ready to get rid of our dependence on Russia's energy sources ... but we're not able to do it in a short term," Fiala said.

A meeting of ambassadors just before the summit spurred some hope that a compromise could be reached.

According to several diplomats, leaders will try to reach a deal for an EU embargo on Russian seaborne oil by the end of the year that would cover more than two-third of oil imports from Russia.

Orban said he is ready to support the sixth round of sanctions if Hungary's security of oil supplies is guaranteed. Hungary and Slovakia depend on Russian oil that comes through the Soviet-era Druzhba pipeline. The EU has already imposed five rounds of sanctions on Russia over its war

in Ukraine. The bloc has targeted more than 1,000 people, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and top government officials, as well as pro-Kremlin oligarchs, banks, the coal sector and more.

A sixth package of sanctions against Russia was announced on May 4, but the holdup over oil is embarrassing the bloc, which has been forced to scale down its ambitions. When European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen proposed the package, the initial aim was to phase out imports of crude oil within six months and refined products by the end of the year.

The problem with the new

possible compromise of hitting sea-transported Russian oil is that countries like Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands that are most reliant on that form would suffer a surge in oil prices, distorting competition because Hungary would still be purchasing cheaper Russian oil.

Orban said "the pipeline solution is not bad. It's a good approach. But we need the guarantee that in the case of an accident with the pipeline rushing through Ukraine, we have to have the right to get Russian oil from other sources." German Chancellor Olaf Scholz left open the possibility of an EU agreement being struck at the summit, calling talks on the matter "good and constructive" and saying the bloc is determined to remain united. "Everything that I hear makes it sound as if a consensus could be reached and, sooner or later, it will be," Scholz told reporters.

Von der Leyen all but ruled out the prospect of a breakthrough at this week's summit, saying as she arrived "my expectations are low that it will be solved in the next 48 hours."

Latvian Prime Minister Krisjanis Karins urged his EU counterparts to get over their differences on oil, saying that member countries are "getting a little bogged down in all of the details and we're forgetting the big picture." □

Japan complains over Seoul marine survey in disputed waters



Islands called Dokdo in Korean and Takeshima in Japanese are observed during a Korean Air Airbus A380 demonstration flight on June 16, 2011.

Associated Press

By YURI KAGEYAMA

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan lodged a complaint Monday over a South Korean ship that was conducting a marine survey in waters near Japanese-claimed islands controlled by Seoul. Government spokesperson Hirokazu Matsuno said it was "totally unacceptable" that a South Korean research ship was spotted trailing what appeared to be a cable near the islands, which Japan calls Takeshima and South Korea calls Dokdo.

Matsuno said Tokyo did not receive any prior request from Seoul for such research.

"We strongly demand this stop immediately," he said. He said the two sides held talks about the incident but both reiterated their previous claims to the territory. In Seoul, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said it cannot accept the Japanese complaint. It called the survey a legitimate act conducted in line with domestic and international law. In 2017, Japan lodged a complaint against South

Korea after the official website for the Pyeongchang Olympic Games referred to the islands as Dokdo.

Japan and South Korea have rich cultural ties, but relations have been marred by bitter tensions over historical issues such as Japan's colonization of the Korean Peninsula last century and its actions during World War II.

Japan also has a dispute over Japanese-controlled islands in the East China Sea that it calls Senkaku, which China also claims and calls Diaoyu. □

1 billion pills seized: East, S.E. Asia hits ominous drug peak

By **GRANT PECK**
Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — The number of methamphetamine tablets seized in East and Southeast Asia exceeded a billion last year for the first time, highlighting the scale of illegal drug production and trafficking in the region and the challenges of fighting it, the U.N. said Monday. The 1.008 billion tablets which would weigh about 91 tons altogether were part of a regionwide haul of almost 172 tons of methamphetamine in all forms, and was seven times higher than the amount seized 10 years earlier, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime said in a report.

"I think the region is literally swimming in methamphetamine," said Jeremy Douglas, Southeast Asia regional representative for the U.N. agency, at a news conference in the Thai capital Bangkok unveiling the report on "Synthetic Drugs in East and Southeast Asia." "So there's going to have to be a radical policy shift by East Asia to address this problem or it's just going to continue to grow," Douglas said. The drugs are largely consumed in Southeast Asia but also exported to New Zealand and Australia, Hong Kong, Korea and Japan in East Asia, and increasingly to South Asia. "Production and trafficking of methamphetamine jumped yet again as supply became super concen-



Reporters view packages of methamphetamines on a table during a press conference at Narcotics Suppression Bureau in Bangkok, Thailand on July 15, 2019.

Associated Press

trated in the Mekong (River region) and in particular Thailand, Laos and Myanmar," Douglas told The Associated Press in an email. The increased production makes the drug cheaper and more accessible, creating greater risk to people and their communities, the report said. According to Douglas, when he first worked in the region in 2002-2007, a meth tablet cost five to six times what it costs now. Methamphetamine is easy to make and has supplanted opium and its derivative heroin to become the dominant illegal drug in Southeast Asia for both use and export. The Golden Triangle area,

where the borders of Myanmar, Laos and Thailand meet, was historically a major production area for opium and hosted many of the labs that converted it to heroin. Decades of political instability have made Myanmar's frontier regions largely lawless, to be exploited by drug producers and traffickers. Douglas said at Monday's news conference that there is a fundamental need to refocus law enforcement efforts against the drug trade. "There's lots and lots of seizures being made and no impact being made on the business itself. Organized crime just keep cranking out the volume, replacing

seizures with more product," Douglas said. "The chemical situation is highly complex and there's no essential chemicals being seized and they just continue to flow unabated, primarily through Laos into (Myanmar's) Shan State," Douglas added. "We also have huge money laundering operations at play in the region. We have no attempt fundamentally at the end of the day to address demand which is seemingly growing and can continue to grow because of the price point of the drug is so cheap." Given the problem of limited governance and low attention to the issue, the U.N. agency said organized

crime syndicates have the means to continue to produce more meth and to sell it to a growing population of young people with increased spending power. The political landscape has also served to ramp up production.

In Myanmar, the military seized power from an elected government last year and is now engaged in an armed struggle against foes of military rule. Drug production in Myanmar is often associated with armed ethnic minority groups that sometimes battle the government and each other.

"Every group denies involvement in drug production and trafficking and point at other groups as responsible, but the drug economy is arguably the largest part of the economy in most or many parts of Shan and border areas of Myanmar and there is plenty of intel connecting groups to labs and shipments," Douglas said. The report also called Laos one of the countries most impacted by methamphetamine trafficked out of Myanmar. One of Asia's biggest-ever drug busts was made in Laos last October, with police there seizing more than 55.6 million methamphetamine pills in a single raid. They also seized about 1,500 kilograms (3,300 pounds) of crystal methamphetamine, state media reported.

Indonesian fishermen rescue 10 more survivors of sunken boat



In this photo released by the National Search and Rescue Agency (BASARNAS), survivors ride on an Indonesian Navy boat after being retrieved from the water during the rescue operation for the victims of a sinking cargo boat in the Makassar Strait, Indonesia, Sunday, May 29, 2022.

Associated Press

MAKASSAR, Indonesia (AP) — Ten more survivors of an Indonesian boat that sank three days earlier were rescued Monday by local fishermen, leaving 11 people still missing, an official said. The captain and other crew of the cargo vessel, which was carrying 42 people, were among those rescued Monday, said Djunaidi, head of the provincial search and rescue agency. "They are safe and in good condition," said Djunaidi, who like many Indonesians uses only one name. The KM Ladang Pertiwi 02

sank in bad weather in the Makassar Strait on Friday afternoon. It had left Makassar on Thursday and was headed to Kalmas Island in South Sulawesi province. The cause of the sinking was still being investigated. The vessel was initially described as a passenger ferry, but Djunaidi later clarified that it was a cargo boat carrying construction materials. Thirty-six passengers had asked for a ride on the boat with its six crew members. Ferry tragedies are com-

mon in Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands, where ferries are often used for transport and safety regulations are often disregarded. In 2018, an overcrowded ferry with about 200 people on board sank in a deep volcanic crater lake in North Sumatra province, killing 167 people. In one of the country's worst recorded disasters, an overcrowded passenger ship sank in February 1999 with 332 people aboard. There were only 20 survivors.

Israeli PM defends march marked by violence, racism

By JOSEPH KRAUSS

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett on Monday defended the decision to hold an annual march that celebrates Israel's takeover of east Jerusalem and was marked by violence and anti-Palestinian racism.

Authorities called up thousands of police, forcibly cleared out Palestinians and risked another war with the Islamic militant group Hamas to ensure that tens of thousands of mostly right-wing Israelis could parade through a dense Palestinian neighborhood and hundreds could visit a bitterly contested holy site. Israel had changed the route at the last minute during last year's march, at a time of soaring tensions over violence at the holy site and attempts by settlers to remove dozens of Palestinian families from their homes in east Jerusalem.

Hamas still fired rockets, and an 11-day Gaza war ensued.

Israel avoided that scenario this year and allowed the parade to take its traditional route through the heart of the Muslim Quarter of the Old City.

But the march saw Israeli



Members of Israeli security forces detain a Palestinian protester near Damascus Gate outside Jerusalem's Old City as Israelis mark Jerusalem Day, an Israeli holiday celebrating the capture of the Old City during the 1967 Mideast war. Sunday, May 29, 2022.

Associated Press

nationalists chant racist slogans, including "Death to Arabs," and attack Palestinians and journalists. Fights broke out along the route, as police mainly intervened to protect Jews and forcibly disperse Palestinians.

The Palestinian Red Crescent rescue service said 62 Palestinians were wounded, including 23 who needed hospitalization. Israeli police said they arrested over 60 suspects and that five officers were wounded.

The vast majority of those arrested appear to have been Palestinians, though police refused to provide a breakdown.

Bennett praised the police's handling of the event and said Israel was obliged to hold the march in the face of threats by Hamas.

"If we hadn't done it along the regular route, we would — in effect — never go back to it," he said. "This could have been a retreat on sovereignty."

Bennett praised the marchers, saying that "except for an extremist group, whom we will deal with to the fullest extent of the law, those who celebrated yesterday did so in a very special, heart-lifting way."

Defense Minister Benny Gantz said Israel would consider designating two far-right groups, La Familia and Lehava, as terrorist organizations.

The former is the notoriously racist fan club associated

with one of Israel's most popular soccer teams, while the latter is linked to the late Rabbi Meir Kahane, who preached a violent, anti-Arab ideology.

But right-wing views are far more widespread in Israeli society. A strong majority of seats in Israel's Knesset, or parliament, are held by right-wing parties that support Jewish settlement in the occupied territories and are opposed to Palestinian statehood, including one led by a disciple of Kahane.

Right-wing factions are split over whether former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu should return to office, and some, including Bennett's Yamina, partnered with centrist and left-wing parties last year to form a governing coalition and avoid more elections.

But the nationalist parties in the coalition have gotten their way when it comes to settlement expansion, acceptance of settler outposts and barring Israelis from extending citizenship or even residency to Palestinian spouses.

Bennett himself is opposed to Palestinian statehood, but his government has approved some steps to improve economic conditions for Palestinians. □

Death toll from Brazil floods at least 91, with dozens lost

By DAVID BILLER

Associated Press

Authorities in northeastern Brazil's Pernambuco state said Monday that 91 deaths have been confirmed from flooding over the weekend, with more two dozen people still missing.

Hundreds of state and federal rescue workers were searching for 26 people currently unaccounted for, according to the official statement.

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro on Monday flew over the affected area of Pernambuco's capital, Recife, and neighboring Jaboatão dos Guararapes. Speaking to reporters afterward, he said that landing in the helicopter wasn't possible due to the soaked soil.

He also noted the country has recently experienced similar disasters in the mountains above Rio de Janeiro, in southern Bahia state and in Minas Gerais state.

"Unfortunately, these catastrophes happen in a continent-sized country," he said. "We're all obviously sad. We express our sympathy to family members. Our bigger objective is to comfort families and also, with material means, attend to the population."

The government is moving to make funds available to municipalities that have declared a state of emergency, Daniel Ferreira, the minister of regional development, said at the press conference. He also highlighted a new credit line

available to cities afflicted by such disasters.

Experts say climate change contributes to more intense rainfall, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has classified Recife's metropolitan region as one of the world's most vulnerable cities. The low-lying metro region is set at the delta of three rivers, features floodplains and a network of dozens of canals and is home to some 4 million people.

In March, Recife became the first Latin American city to sign on for participation in a program to that will create insurance against climate disasters created by a network of local and regional governments and financed by German de-



Firefighters carry a body recovered from a landslide triggered by heavy rain in the Jardim Monte Verde neighborhood of Recife in Pernambuco state, Brazil, Sunday, May 29, 2022.

Associated Press

velopment bank KfW.

The state's civil defense authority said in a statement that the flooding has displaced 5,000 people from


their homes, and has reinforced its alert about still-high risk of landslides. Rain has continued, albeit with less intensity. □

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Recycling Sculpture Competition held at the Hilton



Palm Beach - In honor of the Earth Day in April, a Recycling Sculpture Competition took place at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, just recently.

The annual creative initiative included an original and refreshing twist, with the focus on animal sculptures of

considerable size, all made with 100% recycled materials.

Five departments announced their participation. A panel of judges enjoyed a walk through to evaluate the work based on originality, innovation, variety of materials, presentation and the degree of difficulty.

The Laguna Food & Beverage team members welcomed the judges at the coy pond where a larger-than-life Shoco Owl, nicknamed Pablo, was entered in competition, its feathers made from slices of cork, with an aluminum beak and round crushed cans for eyes. The work was detailed and well-finished and the team's enthusiasm, contagious.

The Human Resources department devoted its presentation to bees, creating an over-sized Queen Bee from yellow and black paper-mâché with paper, wooden coffee stirrers and bits of electric cord for legs, and wings. The presentation included educational and informative materials, about the life of bees and their importance in our existence.

The Security department opted to create a Shoco Owl with paper wings and bandage-wraps for legs, their presentation was all about the benefits of recycling and the importance of reducing waste.

eforea Spa recreated its butterfly logo from old flyers, empty cream containers, wooden cutlery, cord and electric wire. The work was nicely finished with great attention to detail, and the presentation eloquent and accurate.


The Pool & Beach team members appropriately created a blue-green turtle, staging it on a sandy backdrop. They used recycled cups, bottle caps, and sliced cork to create the shell, with a correctly proportioned head and tail. They informed the judges about the efforts to save the turtle population in the Caribbean.

The judges enjoyed scoring the work as each department came up with original styles, techniques and materials, dedicating considerable time to the execution of their plans.

A special commendation goes to the winning Laguna Restaurant team, whose collaboration was filled with enthusiasm reflective of a motivated and dedicated team.

The sculptures were on exhibit in the Lobby, for guest and team members, to recognize and showcase all the efforts of the teams. □

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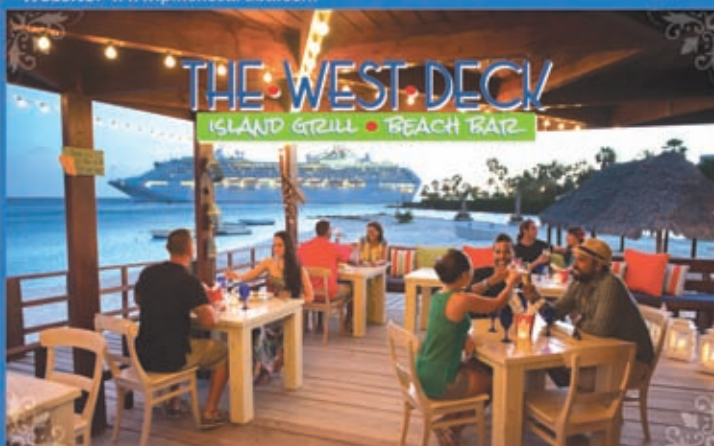


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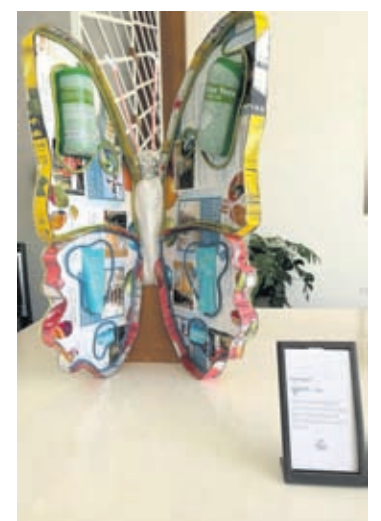
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Infini by Chef Urvin Croes

PALM BEACH — After spearheading The Kitchen Table for five years, receiving notable recognitions in USA Today, The Daily Meal and earning the #1 spot on Tripadvisor's list of Fine Dining Restaurants in the Caribbean, Chef Urvin Croes has now moved on to higher heights. Infini, his new chef's table, which opened at the Blue Residences in 2020, allows the Michelin-trained Aruban culinary artist to create gastronomic experiences unconfined by cultural or regional expectations. Croes says: "We opened up the entire kitchen and elevated the dining tables so guests have a front row stadium-like view of each step of the preparations. A chef's table concept where diners and staff are able to interact throughout the evening, channeling through a story guided by a 12 course menu."

"It is a flavor that you cannot define, but you can create."

Inspired by umami, one of the five basic tastes, and also Japanese for "essence of deliciousness", Chef Croes strived to organically produce this palate in each dish of the twelve-course Asian Caribbean Impression tasting menu. "It is a flavor that you cannot define, but you can create."

"Without a great team, there is no great chef"

"There is very little I can do by myself. Without a great team, there is no great chef", says Croes, while raving about the young professionals sharing his kitchen. All graduates of Aruba's EPI College and familiar faces to the Chef as each one has completed their culinary internship under his guidance. In fact, Infini's Chef de Cuisine, Ashwin



Maduro, was Urvin's very first student, before relocating to Amsterdam, where he worked at several Michelin-starred restaurants, including &moshik (formally &Samhoud Places). Having recently returned to Aruba, Chef Maduro is thrilled to be reunited with his first mentor and hopes to secure Aruba's space on the global map of unique culinary experiences. Similarly, after four years working in the two-Michelin starred restaurant Spectrum, Chef de Partie Moises Ramirez returned home to share his vast experience in formulating recipes with meticulous attention to detail and consistency. Further down the kitchen line, Chef de

Partie Alvaro Yi, who has worked at the two-Michelin starred FG Restaurant, is all about expressing himself through cooking and plating to create art that you can eat. Mixologist Marc-Anthony Rannis brings eight years of experience in the fine dining industry to Infini. His fine craftsmanship is displayed in the unparalleled wine pairings and signature cocktails, which include his personally homemade syrups, garnishes and fresh local ingredients. Maître D' and Junior Sommelier Jessica Theysen, who previously managed renowned Chef Dennis Huwaë's Restaurant Daalder in Amsterdam, is a true storyteller. From the moment she



infini
by Urvin Croes

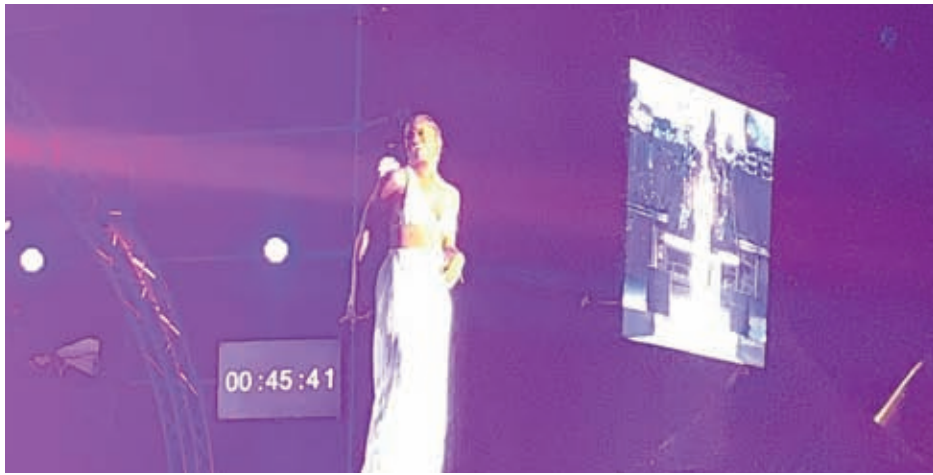
serves the Salinity welcome drink and the culinary tale begins, she takes you on an adventure around the world to discover never-before-tasted combinations. Then, towards the end of the night, it is his time to shine — Pastry Chef Jean-Claude Werleman, that is. After spending the last two years perfecting his recipes in the Pastry Department of the Ritz Carlton Aruba, Werleman joins Infini to continue exploring his passion for experimenting with colors and bold flavors.

"It's time to show that Aruba is a culinary destination of its own"

"The goal is to leave our visitors speechless. The look on their faces whenever they take the first bite says it all and it is priceless", shares Croes, with a smile. Reclaiming the spot of number one restaurant in the Caribbean is also in sight, but this time he will not stop there. "In the end, we want Aruba to be recognized for its culinary mastery. We have trained the best culinary artists right here on the island and they have proven themselves internationally in the most renowned kitchens in the world. Now it is time to show that Aruba is a culinary destination of its own. Who knows where that will take us; hopefully to infinity and beyond."

Infini located at Blue Residences currently serves an eight-course Chef's Impression to up to 21 guests starting at 6:30PM. To make reservations visit www.infiniaruba.com or call +297-699-3982. □

Soul Beach Music Festival 2022 was back bigger and better than ever



ORANJESTAD - On Saturday and Sunday the Main Stage Concerts for Soul Beach Music Festival took place, and they were nothing short of spectacular. Both regular audience members and first timers were able to enjoy of a great and wonderful line up for both main stage concerts.

On Saturday, the audience was able to enjoy Kevin Ross' soothing vocals during his melodic and romantic performance. The audience was delighted with his amazing stage presence and interactions, making everyone laugh with his remarks and have an overall delightful time.

After the romantic tunes that Ross brought to the table, Mary J Blige took the stage with an entrance fit for a queen. Her experience and legacy was felt throughout the whole venue with everyone having their eyes on the stage for the entirety of her performance. Blige dominated the stage with catchy dance moves, motivating the audience to join in, along with her nostalgic songs that brought great memories and made new ones for everyone present.

Sunday featured a great performance from Ari Lennox, who amazed the crowd with her bubbly presence and soft vocal tone. She had a

bright and youthful presence that made her performance a delight to watch. After Lennox, the legendary and well renowned group New Edition took the stage. From entrance to exit, they gave a high energy, exhilarating and fun performance that both young and grown were able to enjoy from beginning to the end. They performed many of their old hits, along with some songs by Bell Biv DeVoe.

It was surely an unforgettable experience for all who were present, and those watching from home alike. This year marked the 20th anniversary for Soul Beach Music Festival, and makes us all excited to see what there is to come. □



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Prepare for sticker shock if you are traveling this summer

By DAVID KOENIG

DALLAS (AP) — Airlines and tourist destinations are expecting monster crowds this summer as travel restrictions ease and pandemic fatigue overcomes lingering fear of contracting COVID-19 during travel.

Many forecasters believe the number of travelers will match or even exceed levels in the good-old, pre-pandemic days. However, airlines have thousands fewer employees than they did in 2019, and that has at times contributed to widespread flight cancellations. People who are only now booking travel for the summer are experiencing the sticker shock.

Domestic airline fares for summer are averaging more than \$400 a round trip, 24% higher than this time in 2019, before the pandemic, and a whopping 45% higher than a year ago, according to travel-data firm Hopper.

"The time to have gotten cheap summer flights was probably three or four months ago," says Scott Keyes, who runs the Scott's Cheap Flights site.

Internationally, fares are also up from 2019, but only 10%. Prices to Europe are about 5% cheaper than before the pandemic — \$868 for the average round trip, according to Hopper. Keyes said Europe is the best travel bargain out there.

Steve Nelson of Mansfield,



Travelers queue up at the south security checkpoint in the main terminal of Denver International Airport, Thursday, May 26, 2022, in Denver.

Associated Press

Texas, was standing in line this week at a security checkpoint in Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, ready to board a flight to Nice, France, with plans to attend a Formula One race in Monaco.

"I decided it's time to work on my bucket list," Nelson said. "I hadn't even considered Monaco until this year."

Although many countries have eased rules for travel, there are still restrictions in place that add to the hassle factor. Notably, the United States still requires a negative COVID-19 test within a day of flying to the country.

"We only realized that a

couple days before coming here. We kind of panicked to find a place to get tested," said Jonny Dawe, a software engineer from Bath, England, who was in Dallas for a conference — his first major trip since the pandemic started. "You have to check all the testing requirements for the countries you are visiting, and you have to worry about contracting the virus."

Online spending on U.S. flights eased in April after a torrid March, but it's still up 23% from spring 2019 mostly because of higher prices, according to Adobe Analytics.

Airlines blame the steeper

fares on jet fuel roughly doubling in price over 2019. It's more than that, however. The number of flights has not returned to pre-pandemic levels even though demand for travel is surging.

"We have more travelers looking to book fewer seats, and each of those seats is going to be more expensive for airlines to fly this summer because of jet fuel," says Hopper economist Hayley Berg.

When travelers reach their destination, they will be greeted with hotel rates that are up about one-third from last year. Hotels are filling up faster, too. Hotel companies blame the

higher prices on increasing cost for supplies as well as workers in a tight labor market.

Rental cars were hard to find and very expensive last summer, but that seems to have eased as the rental companies rebuild their fleets. The nationwide average price is currently around \$70 a day, according to Hopper.

Jonathan Weinberg, founder of a rental car shopping site called AutoSlash, said prices and availability of vehicles will be very uneven. It won't be as bad as last summer, but prices for vehicles will still be "way above average, if you can even find one," in Hawaii, Alaska and near destinations such as national parks.

Even if you drive your own car, it'll still be pricey. The national average for regular gasoline hit \$4.60 a gallon on Thursday — more than \$6 in California. Those prices have some people considering staying home.

"You don't really get used to \$6 gas," said Juliet Ripley of San Diego as she paid \$46.38 to put 7.1 gallons in her Honda Civic. The single mom of two has no summer vacation plans other than an occasional trip to a nearby beach.

For those determined to travel, however, it is an open question whether airlines, airports, hotels and other travel businesses will be able to handle them. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Full and new, for two
- 7 Sketch
- 11 Tie down
- 12 Part to play
- 13 Hard to control
- 15 Camera setting
- 16 On the house
- 18 Sunset setting
- 21 Multi-colored
- 22 Piece that moves diagonally
- 24 Sty resident
- 25 Manx or Siamese
- 26 Mine matter
- 27 Perplexed
- 29 Sign of disuse
- 30 Guinness of film
- 31 Dorothy's dog
- 32 Violinist's need
- 34 Like some stadium roofs
- 40 Balm ingredient
- 41 Friends
- 42 Gum flavor
- 43 Gives a makeover

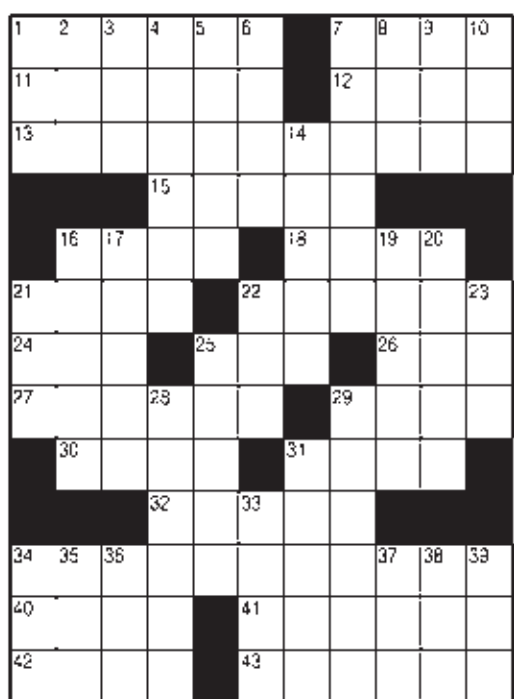
DOWN

- 1 Letter before omega
- 2 Egg layer
- 3 Drama division
- 4 Rode the curl
- 5 Make blank
- 6 Church group
- 7 Window adornment
- 8 Hold up
- 9 Completely
- 10 Tiny
- 14 Namely
- 16 Singer Apple
- 17 Majestic
- 19 Holler

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Yesterday's answer

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| 20 Statue subject | 33 Wound reminder |
| 21 Letter after | 34 Ewe's mate |
| 22 Chips buy | 35 Inventor |
| 23 Parrot or puppy | Whitney |
| 25 Winter quaff | 36 Great weight |
| 28 Weasel's kin | 37 Life story, for short |
| 29 Nancy's hubby | 38 Director Spike |
| 31 Cover words | 39 Curvy letter |



5-31

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-31

CRYPTOQUOTE

X O I F I R B Q R C Q F N X I K S C
M X Q S M M R I R I Y B N N S M F.
U O Q S M I S C S M F R L R I K Q S Z R
D R Y B N N. V X M Y O V S O C

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HEROISM DOESN'T ALWAYS HAPPEN IN A BURST OF GLORY. SOMETIMES SMALL TRIUMPHS AND LARGE HEARTS CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY.
— MARY ROACH

Robotic buoys developed to keep Atlantic right whales safe



In this June 29, 2021, photo provided by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, an acoustic buoy floats in the water off the coast of Ocean City, Md.

Associated Press

By PATRICK WHITTLE
Associated Press

A Cape Cod science center and one of the world's largest shipping businesses are collaborating on a project to use robotic buoys to protect a vanishing whale from lethal collisions with ships.

A lab at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution developed the tech-

nology, which uses buoys and underwater gliders to record whale sounds in near real time. The robotic recorders give scientists, mariners and the public an idea of the location of rare North Atlantic right whales, said Mark Baumgartner, a marine ecologist with Woods Hole whose lab also operates the buoys. The whales number less

than 340 in the world and ship strikes are one of the biggest threats to their existence, as they travel through some of the busiest stretches of ocean on the planet. Now, French shipping giant CMA CGM is working with Woods Hole to deploy two of the robotic buoys off of Norfolk, Virginia, and Savannah, Georgia.

CMA CGM is funding the deployment of the buoys, which will add to the data collected by six others off the East Coast, Baumgartner said. The two new buoys could be deployed for testing soon, he said.

"We have to change our industrial practices when whales are around. That's what this tech enables," Baumgartner said. "Having the industry tell us what works and what doesn't is the best way to have solutions that will actually be implemented."

The whales were once abundant off the East Coast, but their populations were decimated generations ago by commercial whaling. These days, they're vulnerable to ship collisions and entanglement in fishing gear. And they've dwindled in population in recent years because of high mortality and poor reproduction.

The whales are aided by a complex network of protected areas and shipping restrictions. However, scientists have sounded alarms recently that the whales have been straying outside of protected areas in search of food as waters warm. That has made them more vulnerable.

Representatives for CMA CGM, which has a U.S. headquarters in Norfolk, said the company chose to locate buoys off the Virginia city and Savannah because those are among the busiest shipping ports in the United States. Ed Aldridge, president of CMA CGM America, said it's an effort to "responsibly share the ocean with marine mammals and protect endangered species."

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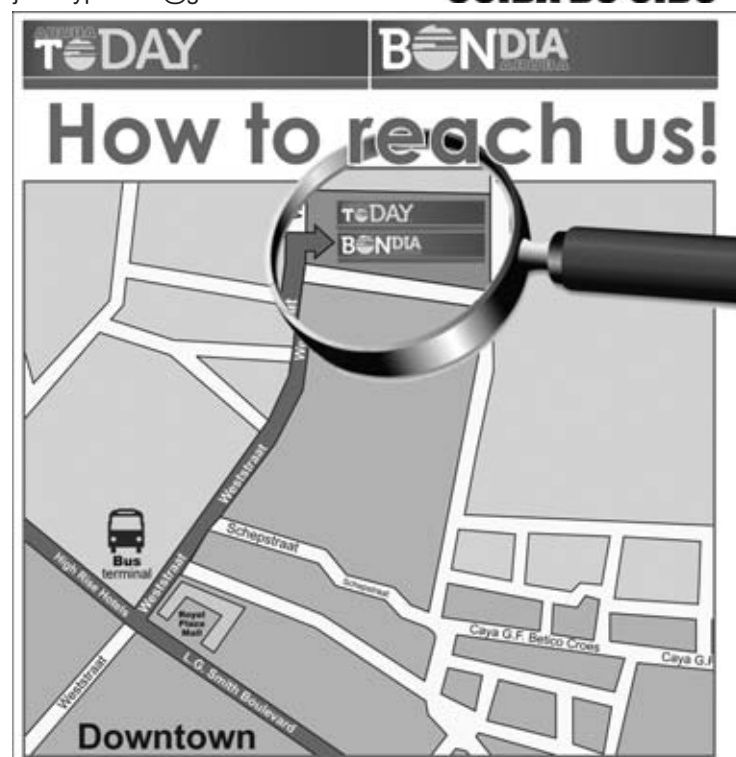
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'Top Gun: Maverick' wins Tom Cruise 1st \$100 million opening

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

Forget breaking the sound barrier: Tom Cruise just flew past a major career milestone.

The 59-year-old superstar just got his first \$100 million opening weekend with "Top Gun: Maverick." In its first three days in North American theaters, the long-in-the-works sequel earned an estimated \$124 million in ticket sales, Paramount Pictures said Sunday. Including international showings, its worldwide total is \$248 million.

It's a supersonic start for a film that still has the wide-open skies of Memorial Day itself to rake in even more cash. According to projections and estimates, by Monday's close, "Top Gun: Maverick" will likely have over \$150 million.

"These results are ridiculously, over-the-top fantastic," said Chris Aronson, Paramount's president of domestic distribution. "I'm happy for everyone. I'm happy for the company, for Tom, for the filmmakers." Though undeniably one of the biggest stars in the world — perhaps even "the last movie star," according to various headlines — Cruise is not known for massive blockbuster openings. Before "Maverick," his biggest domestic debut was in 2005, with Steven Spielberg's "War of the Worlds," which opened to \$64 million. After that it was "Mission: Impossible — Fallout" with \$61 million in 2018. It's not that his films don't make money in the long run: They just aren't enormously front-loaded.

"Top Gun: Maverick" had an extremely long journey to get to the theaters. The sequel to the late Tony Scott's "Top Gun," which was released in 1986, was originally slated to open in the



Tom Cruise poses for the media during the 'Top Gun Maverick' UK premiere at a central London cinema, on Thursday, May 19, 2022.

summer of 2020. Its marketing campaign technically started back in July 2019. The pandemic got in the way of those plans, however, and it was delayed several times. Directed by Joseph Kosinski, produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and co-produced and co-financed by Skydance, the sequel reportedly cost \$152 million to make.

But even as the months, and years, went by and many other companies chose to compromise on hybrid releases, Cruise and Paramount didn't waver on their desire to have a

major theatrical release. A streaming debut was simply not an option.

"That was never going to happen," Cruise said in Cannes.

And it is major, with 4,735 North American theaters (a record) showing "Top Gun: Maverick." It also opened in 23,600 locations in 62 international markets.

"This is one of the longest runways for a marketing campaign for any film ever. And it only served to create more excitement around the movie," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore.

"This movie literally waited for the movie theater to come back."

The build up has been just as flashy, with fighter-jet-adorned premieres on an aircraft carrier in San Diego and at the Cannes Film Festival, where Cruise was also given an honorary Palme d'Or, and a royal premiere in London attended by Prince William and his wife Kate.

"The feeling you get when you watch this film with an audience, it's pretty special," Aronson said. "The first big screening we had, there was spontaneous applause during the movie." Reviews have been stellar, too, with the film notching a 97% on Rotten Tomatoes. Audiences, who were 58% male, gave it an A+ CinemaScore, according to exit polls.

The new film has Cruise reprising the role of Maverick,

who returns to the elite aviation training program to train the next generation of flyers, including Miles Teller, Glen Powell, Monica Barbaro, Greg Tarzan Davis, Danny Ramirez, Lewis Pullman and Jay Ellis. Jennifer Connelly, Jon Hamm and Val Kilmer, reprising his role from the original, also star.

"This solidifies the notion that the movie theater is a singular and a vitally important outlet for people," Dergarabedian said. "People are looking for a great escape from everything that's going on in the world right now."

"Maverick" is now among the top pandemic era openings, still led by "Spider-Man: No Way Home" with \$260 million, followed by "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" with \$187 million and "The Batman" with \$134 million.

Notably, "Top Gun: Maverick" is the only non-superhero movie in the bunch. It also attracted a wide swath of age groups to the theater. An estimated 55% of the audience was over 35.

"Superhero movies aren't for everybody. This movie is for everyone and that's what sets it apart," Aronson said. "The theatrical exhibition business has challenges ahead of it, but this is a shot in the arm for that."

"The Bob's Burgers Movie" was the only new release that dared go up against "Top Gun." Released by 20th Century Studios and Disney, the animated pic earned \$12.6 million from 3,425 locations. It opened in third place, behind "Doctor Strange 2," which earned \$16.4 million in its fourth weekend in theaters. "Top Gun" will continue to essentially have the skies to itself until "Jurassic World: Dominion" opens on June 10. "It has a really nice, open marketplace to play," Dergarabedian said. "Tom Cruise has always been about consistency. His movies are about the marathon. This is the first movie of his that is sprinting to big box office numbers. Here, he gets the sprint and the marathon." □



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Ericsson's 500 win helps fuel Swedish momentum in IndyCars

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Felix Rosenqvist sensed Swedish race fans started following IndyCars earnestly again in 2019.

Marcus Ericsson's Indianapolis 500 victory will only fuel the momentum.

After becoming the second 500 winner from Sweden, Ericsson's homecoming later this summer could be fit for a king.

"I'm planning to go home for mid-summer, that could be a good mid-summer party, right?" he said Sunday, winning with a Hulski Chocolate, a Swedish-based company as his primary sponsor.

First, Ericsson must complete a weeklong victory tour. That's followed by races next Sunday at Detroit and the following Sunday at Road America before a two-weekend break may finally allow Ericsson to bask in the celebration of his home country.

But the 31-year-old Ericsson doesn't mind the busy schedule, especially given the long, arduous path he took to join his mentor Kenny Brack atop the world of IndyCar racing. Brack won the 500 in 1999.

And Ericsson's rapid ascension is likely to keep the interest in American racing percolating throughout Europe.

Ericsson's trek could serve as a model for other international racers. After failing to make the podium in 97 Formula One starts, Ericsson left for IndyCars in 2019. He finished 17th in points as



Marcus Ericsson, of Sweden, poses with the Borg-Warner Trophy during the traditional winners photo session at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Monday, May 30, 2022.

Associated Press

a rookie, was cut loose by Schmidt Peterson Motorsports and bought a ride with Chip Ganassi Racing. Since then, Ericsson relied on the advice Brack offered all those years ago to produce three top-five finishes in each of the past three seasons and three wins including Sunday's. Brack isn't surprised by the results — and understands how Sweden will embrace its newest star.

"It's great to see, so a big congratulations," Brack said on an impromptu phone call Sunday. "I don't think you realize yet what this means for your career, but you will find out in time." While Ericsson's victory sweeps Sweden, it's a boon for the series, too.

Three Nordic country driv-

ers are already full-time IndyCar drivers — Ericsson, Rosenqvist and 21-year-old rookie Christian Lundgaard of Denmark. Add 21-year-old Rinus VeeKay of the Netherlands and Ericsson's teammate, defending series champion Alex Palou of Spain, and there's a distinctly influential European flavor developing.

With American drivers such as Colton Herta and Josef Newgarden, Mexico's Pato O'Ward of Mexico, the 500 runner-up, and a strong but aging group of South American drivers continuing to win the hearts of IndyCar fans, there's no indication the pool of global talent is abating.

Four-time Indy winner Helio Castroneves compares

what's happening in Northern Europe today to the transformational South American contingent he helped lead two decades ago.

"It does," the Brazilian said. "I can't even pronounce those guys' names because they are Swedish, but I think all these guys are watching what's happening and they should. If you have enough talent, why don't you come to a place where if you're good, you're going to have your opportunity?"

Rosenqvist and Ericsson certainly found it in America.

They made the jump together after Rosenqvist's F1 quest ended. He initially landed with Ganassi's team, earning 2019 rookie of the year honors and his

first career win at Road America in 2020.

Rosenqvist moved to Arrow McLaren SP last year and while he hasn't yet returned to victory lane, the 31-year-old has won one pole, posted four top-10 finishes and was in contention for the win Sunday before finishing a career-best fourth, giving the Swedes two spots in the top five.

"Obviously, people that follow me and Marcus, the word kind of gets spread around," Rosenqvist said. "There was a big spike in 2019 when we both came here and now it's a consistently growing fan base in Sweden. With all the new talent in Sweden, I think we have a good future in the U.S."

The question is how much will Ericsson's big victory help?

Drivers with previous Formula One experience, such as Ericsson, Romain Grosjean of France and Takuma Sato of Japan, have found more success in America than overseas.

Two-time world champion Fernando Alonso of Spain may return to the 500 at some point, too.

There's no indication the influx of talent or opportunities are abating.

The series already fields 26 full-time entries, its highest total in a decade, and at least three additional teams — Cusick Motorsports, Paretta Autosport and Dreyer & Reinbold Racing — would like to run full time. □

Kody Clemens brought up by Tigers for possible MLB debut

By DAVE HOGG

Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Kody Clemens, the 26-year-old son of seven-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens, was brought up by the Detroit Tigers on Monday for a possible major league debut.

Detroit recalled the infielder/outfielder from Triple-A Toledo of the International League and put outfielder Robbie Grossman on the

10-day injured list because of a strained neck.

A third round pick in the 2018 amateur draft, Clemens was hitting .283 at Toledo with eight homers and 31 RBIs in 45 games. Drafted as a second baseman, he has played first, second, third and left this season.

Detroit needed depth because of Grossman's injury and Miguel Cabrera's bad back.

Roger Clemens was an 11-

time All-Star who won 354 games in a major league career from 1984-2007 and struck out 4,672, third behind Nolan Ryan and Randy Johnson.

Among the players implicated in the 2007 Mitchell Report, Roger Clemens denied using performance-enhancing drugs. In 2012, he was acquitted of charges he lied to Congress when he denied allegations of PED use. □



Detroit Tigers' Kody Clemens is shown during a spring training baseball workout Friday, Feb. 26, 2021, in Lakeland, Fla.

Associated Press

Analysis: Might Djokovic vs. Nadal, Part 59, be their last?

PARIS (AP) — This French Open is the first Grand Slam tournament in a year with both Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal in the field. And anyone who enjoys men's tennis — or, indeed, sports — should be thrilled that those two titans of the game will face each other for a record 59th time.

Is it a shame Tuesday night's match is "only" a quarterfinal, instead of something with more at stake? Perhaps. Will that dissuade anyone from watching from afar or dull the atmosphere that'll envelop Court Philippe Chatrier? Doubtful. Could it decrease the intensity of each player's performance? Not a chance.

"I'm ready for it," Djokovic said.

"I hope to be able to give myself a chance to play at the highest level possible," Nadal said, "and then let's see."

So then the question that Nadal will have on his mind — and we know so because he said so — and Djokovic might, too, is: How many more of these show-downs are there going to be?

First of all, Nadal turns 36 on Friday; Djokovic turned 35 on May 22, the first day of the French Open.

"I don't know what can



Serbia's Novak Djokovic, left, and Spain's Rafael Nadal look at each other as they pose for images prior to the final match of the French Open tennis tournament at Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Sunday, Oct. 11, 2020.

Associated Press

happen in the near future with my career," Nadal said.

His body has been a big issue over the past 12 months. He missed the last half of last season, including Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, because of chronic pain in his left foot that flared up again in recent weeks. After his 20-0 start to 2022, he missed three tournaments because of a rib injury.

"I can't complain much," Nadal said, noting that 2

1/2 weeks ago he had no idea whether he'd make it this far.

"Being honest, every match that I play here, I don't know if it's going to be my last match here in Roland Garros. ... That's my situation now," he said after edging 21-year-old Felix Auger-Aliassime in five sets Sunday night. "That's why I am just trying to enjoy as much as possible."

Auger-Aliassime said Nadal did not appear to be

hampered or slowed at all during their fourth-round thriller, which lasted nearly 4 1/2 hours, almost twice as long as Djokovic's straight-set win Sunday over 15th-seeded Diego Schwartzman.

Djokovic hasn't dropped a set through four matches. "He's Novak," Schwartzman said, "and if you are not 100% ... obviously, the result is like this."

As for Djokovic, his decision to not get vaccinated

against COVID-19 prevented him from participating at the Australian Open and, while he's been assured that won't be a problem at Wimbledon when it starts June 27, his status for the U.S. Open is uncertain at the moment.

Whether statistics, aesthetics or any other measures is applied, both are among the greatest there's ever been. About that there can be no debate.

Nadal owns a men's-record 21 Grand Slam titles, a number he reached with a tiebreaking triumph at the Australian Open in January. Djokovic, like Roger Federer, is one behind. Djokovic has all sorts of other bona fides, including more weeks spent at No. 1 in the ATP rankings than anyone else, the only man with at least two trophies from every major tournament and the only one with at least two trophies from every Masters event. He also leads both Federer and Nadal head-to-head.

Djokovic and Nadal have played each other more frequently than any other pair of men in the half-century-plus of professional tennis. Djokovic leads 30-28 overall; Nadal leads 19-8 on clay, including 7-2 at Roland Garros. □

Pelicans' CJ McCollum joining ESPN as an NBA analyst



New Orleans Pelicans guard CJ McCollum (31) is shown during the second half of Game 1 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Sunday, April 17, 2022, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

By **JOE REEDY**

New Orleans guard and NBA Players Association president CJ McCollum has added another title to his

busy schedule — NBA analyst for ESPN.

The network announced Monday that they have signed the Pelicans star to

a multi-platform deal. He will make his ESPN debut on Thursday during "NBA Finals: Celebrating 75", which will be ESPN2's alternate presentation of Game 1 of the NBA Finals between the Golden State Warriors and Boston Celtics.

McCollum graduated from Lehigh University with a journalism degree and has made past appearances on ESPN as an analyst.

"I am excited to bring what I feel is my unique perspective, based on my vast knowledge of the game that I've gained during my nine years as a player in the NBA," McCollum said in a statement. "To have an opportunity to put my journalism background to use on the largest stage with

the many talented professionals at ESPN is a dream come true."

McCollum will work with ESPN to develop a new podcast. He will also be an analyst on games during coverage of the NBA Summer League as well as some appearances on studio shows throughout the year.

"CJ is one of the most respected players in the NBA, which is evident by his role as President of the NBA PA. Furthermore, he's an extremely talented member of — and leader on — one of the most interesting teams in the league: the New Orleans Pelicans," said David Roberts, ESPN head of NBA and studio production. "CJ's commitment to

this opportunity, combined with his passion for journalism and sports broadcasting, will be a clear benefit for NBA fans."

McCollum was traded from Portland to New Orleans near the February trade deadline. He averaged 24.3 points once he joined the Pelicans and helped them make the playoffs.

McCollum is part of an increasing number of players who are year-around analysts while still playing. Los Angeles Sparks forward Chiney Ogwumike has been working for ESPN since 2018, including a stint hosting an afternoon radio show. Golden State's Draymond Green signed a multi-platform deal with Turner Sports in January. □